



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Rowe, Pate Turner, and Scarbrough

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: TWBC Cllr Mrs Willis

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present.

19/203 TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING: No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

19/204 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Round – (family engagement)

Apologies were also received from County Councillor McInroy and TW Borough Cllr Stanyer

19/205 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none

19/206 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

19/207 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7th October 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19/208 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Cllr Mrs Willis spoke about the Draft Local Plan and requested that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of TPOs being placed on the existing trees on site 231. The Clerk will investigate the matter.

Cllr Mrs Soyke and Podbury both spoke of the issues arising from the new recycling contract. All three Borough Councillors said they will help resolve issues if notified.

19/209 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Larkin, a resident of Ferbies, spoke of his despair that the site bordering his property had again come up for proposed development. He referred to the previous time in 2011/12 when the site was rejected for Local Needs Housing and that the same reasons of access and the environment still exist. He was concerned that the Parish Plan, which he had helped with, and was only published three years ago, had been ignored by the Parish Council when making their decision not to object to the development. Mrs Larkin asked if the Council was going to support their objection to the proposed building on the site.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson explained that TWBC's Draft Local Plan needed a substantial number of houses to meet government targets. The presentation at the Open Meeting by the Head of Planning had shown the need for the doubling of house building from 6,500 to 13,500 over 20 years. Throughout the Borough Parishes were being asked to accommodate thousands of additional houses. The two "Call for Sites" had seen a number of sites in the Parish put forward for building but all had been rejected except for site 231. The Parish Council had taken the difficult decision, by a majority, to remain neutral.

Cllr Mrs Price explained that TWBC needed a valid Local Plan and was therefore redrawing Green Belt boundaries to accommodate this housing need.

Cllr Rowe said that SPC had already raised a number of conditions with TWBC.

Cllr Pate explained that although there were differences it was a decision taken as a "body".

The Clerk mentioned the vacancies that existed on the Parish Council prior to the election and immediately afterwards and how it could have affected voting.

To summarise: It was the Draft Local Plan and there would be more opportunities to scrutinise the plan for highways safety and other issues before planning permission was given. It was also noted that the Draft Plan was not easy to comment on online. Borough Cllrs would bring this up with Officers and advise.

Mr & Mrs Larkin left the meeting

19/210 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting. One was scheduled for Monday 11th when the main subject would be the budget and the Committee would be recommending it at the December meeting. She said that she thought that after the zero increase for the last financial year that the precept would need to be increased next year.
- b) **Budget virements:** there were none.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting:** Interim payments since the Full Council meeting: **Unity bank current account:** £137.49 transfer to MasterCard and a debit from EDF £1,193.54 extra pavilion electricity. BT charge of £650.62 which the Clerk was investigating. **Mastercard:** NALC Conference hotel £158.40; Poppy wreaths £125.00; APM refreshments £28.90*; Petrol £10.11*; Extra keys £10.98*; Microsoft 365 renewal £270.72
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred above.
- e) **RESOLVED** that a new leaf blower be purchased for the Groundsman up to £400

19/193 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Turner.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
BT PLC	DD	9.60	Mobile
Rupert Milner	MT1668	95.00	Travel expenses re NALC
Rupert Milner	MT1669	79.18	Footpath repair materials
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1670	50.00	Office underlease
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1671	130.39	Office electricity
Langton Life	MT1672	250.00	Advertisement
M R Lawrence	MT1673	555.00	Bi-annual strimming/hedges
M R Lawrence	MT1674	210.00	Mowing
M R Lawrence	MT1675	270.00	Mowing
Streetlights	MT1676	25.96	Maintenance contract re street
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1677	866.40	Groombridge Mowing quarter
Kidman's Ltd	MT1676	98.64	Maintenance/parts
St Mary's Church, Speldhurst	MT1676	1,000.00	Grant re maintenance
Hospice in the Weald	MT1630	1,000.00	Grant
Mr L Cooper	MT1681	33.84	Expenses
Catherine Barrett	MT1682	32.40	Expenses

C May	MT1683	9.68	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1684	13.39	Expenses
SLCC	MT1685	136.00	A/Clerk annual membership
SLCC	MT1686	40.00	ALCC annual membership
SLCC	MT1687	40.00	Clerk annual ALCC membership
SLCC	MT1688	196.00	Annual membership clerk
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1694	38.25	Meeting Rooms
Paul Cheater	MT1696	112.00	Pavilion cleaning
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1689	115.97	Pension contributions
Catherine Barrett	MT1690	406.90	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1691	640.88	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1692	749.67	Salary
C May	MT1693	1,566.87	Salary
UK Debt Management Office	DD	2,770.30	PWLB repayment
Veolia	DD	99.00	Waste Disposal
Sunstone	MT1695	1,943.89	Annual Maintenance

Total: £13,594.21

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

19/211 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) The Café appeared to be back on track after the issues of the summer. A meeting was to be held with LGCSA next evening so she would defer any report until the next meeting. Traffic management and parking: the application for the permitted development was yet to be submitted by the Clerk.
- b) Drainage project: LGCSA advised that due to the delayed start and recent torrential rain the final resurfacing, compaction and reseeding cannot take place until the ground is dry and the temperature warm enough for the new grass to germinate. It is hoped this would take place in April next year with Recreation Ground reopening in August 2020. Cllr Mrs Lyle had advised Agrifactors that the fencing was down in places.

19/212 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN: It was agreed that an article should be placed on the website and in next month's magazines explaining the reasons behind the Council's stance. It was considered important that the article included that it was a TWBC proposal, how the Government's demands for housing had changed matters and how other Parishes were affected. A draft would be circulated for consensus by the end of the week.

19/213 VE DAY 2020: It was agreed to defer this until the January meeting

19/214 FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2020: Meeting dates were circulated and agreed.

19/215 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Vice-Chairman to give a brief talk about the NALC Conference which he had attended on behalf of SPC. Cllr Milner had previously circulated a detailed report but mentioned the main topics which included climate change; empowering young people; cyber-crime; tackling austerity and effective communication.

19/216 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said a meeting was scheduled for Monday 18th November
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Rowe said the minutes of the meeting dated 21st October had been circulated
- c) **Highways** – Cllr Pate said a meeting was scheduled for Monday 25th November and that he and the Clerk would be attending the annual KCC Seminar on Wednesday 20th November

- d) **Amenities** – Cllr Rowe said a meeting was to be held on Wednesday 6th November
- e) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported on the recent meeting with HWCAAG where the decision about whether to remain a member of the NMB was deferred. He expected HWCAAG to agree to withdraw from NMB, but should they decide to remain party to it he advised that SPC would be withdrawing its membership of HWCAAG.
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that he and the Groundsman, Mr Len Cooper, had installed two new gates in Ashurst. Cllr Mrs Soyke asked that it be minuted that the two men had done an excellent job. Cllr Milner said that there were some new volunteers to join the team.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Price said that a new Chairman was needed to take the working group further.
- h) **KALC** – there was nothing to report

19/217 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7TH OCTOBER 2019: Cllr Ellery asked about progress on the issue of recycling cardboard and cans. The Clerk said he had been in contact with Veolia but he had nothing to report at this stage. Cllr Ellery asked that it be an agenda item for the next meeting.

19/218 CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk advised the following:

- He had received an email thanking SPC for the financial support of the Marchiennes visit
- He reported that a resident had advised of tyres being slashed in Northfields
- The local PCSO has moved on and is joining the main force
- LGCT had been contacted regarding a charity booking next year at a weekend and about a coffee van selling non-alcoholic drinks from the car park. He asked Councillors views and it was not considered something that would be objected to.
- He reminded the five councillors about KALC training next week on Tuesday 12th November

19/219 DIARY DATES:

Monday 4th – Full Council meeting – Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall

Tuesday 5th – Pavilion Committee meeting with LGCSA 8.30pm

Wednesday 6th – Amenities Committee meeting

Monday 11th – Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday 12th – KALC Dynamic Councillor training 6.30pm Pavilion

Monday 18th – Governance Meeting 2pm

Wednesday 20th – KCC Highways Parish Seminar 9.30am

Thursday 21st - Planning Committee meeting

Monday 25th – Highways Meeting

19/220 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Mrs Woodliffe asked that the information regarding the Langton Green Recreation Ground be put on the website
- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the first Charity Luncheon Club had been held earlier that day and was a great success with 35 people attending
- Cllr Milner said there was an article on climate change in the documents he had picked up at the NALC Conference and it was asked that it be circulated.
- Cllr Ellery reported from a SVH meeting: Income is up in 2019; the main hall is fully booked in the evenings, but there is still availability for the committee room; the paving outside the hall is in need of repair and another toilet is required in the hall (both maybe subject to grant applications to SPC). He also reported that the St Mary's Lane repair was still under consideration.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting closed at 9.03pm

Chairman